



Minnesota
Board of Teaching

Testing Overview

September 11, 2015

Creation of MTLE Exams

- * Aligned to MN Standards for Teacher licensure
- * MN Educators reviewed materials and test questions to be sure that the tests reflected the knowledge and skill essential for an entry level educator to receive a license
- * Bias review was conducted with Minnesota Educators and the testing vendor

Program States



- _____ MTLE becomes operational
- 2011** Creation of separate vocal music exam
- 2012** Request for creation of new Core Skills exam based on rule changes
15 minutes added to testing time for select exams based on Pearson analysis
- 2013** **[FEB]** 6 Exams received revised passing scores (Physics, ML Math, Earth Science, French, Spanish, German)
[MAR] Creation of Basic Skills practice exam with rationales
[OCT] World language exams move to computer based format
[DEC] All remaining exam passing scores revised to original panel based recommendation

_____ New Core Skills exam becomes operational

ACT and SAT become options for demonstrating Basic Skills

Candidate performance feedback becomes part of the eReport

Institutions receive feedback on candidate performance for each exam,
by objective (n=10)

2015

RFP published

Vendor determination by mid-July

Lowest Pass Rates

by Licensure Field

60 - 80%

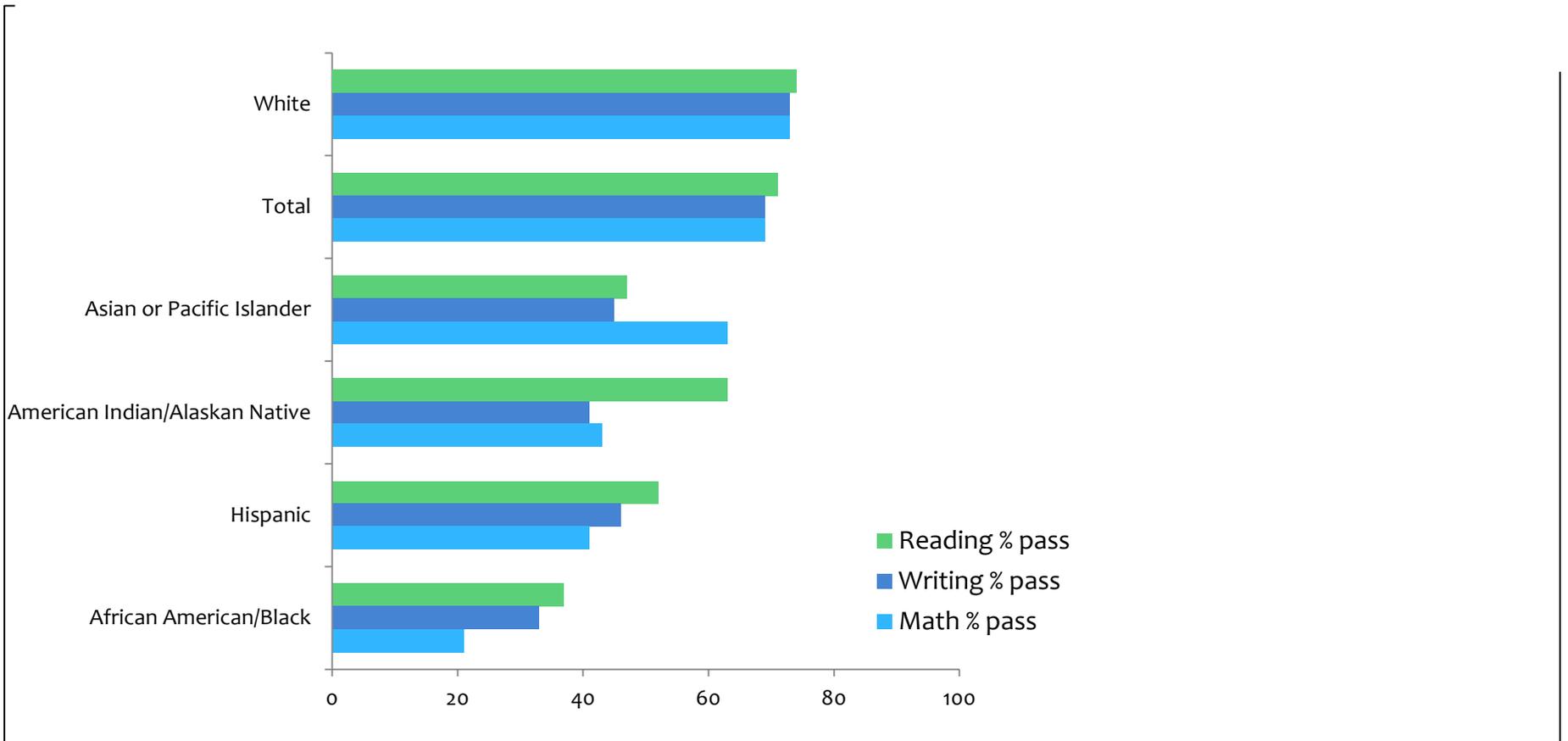
*	Basic Skills Battery	72-73%
*	Business 1	80%
*	Middle Level Math 1	74%
*	Soc Studies 2	77%
*	Earth & Space 2	74%
*	Physics 2	62%
*	French 2	70%
*	Core Skills –SpEd	79%

Trends of Note

- * Basic Skills pass rates have steadily declined since 2011
 - * Math 79% to 72%
 - * Reading 79% to 73%
 - * Writing 79% to 72%
- * Early Childhood Pedagogy, Health, Agriculture, & Keyboarding have 100% pass rate
- * Pass rates continue to be lower across all exams for candidates of color.
 - *This raises concern about the emphasis on testing in 2015 statutory changes.

Basic Skills Pass Rates

(Overall)



Proposed Changes - RFP

- * Untimed testing opportunities
- * Accommodations granted in secondary or post secondary education will now be granted for all exams
- * Free Study Materials Requested
- * Score reports to include feedback to assist in remediation for candidates who do not pass the exam(s)
- * Study Materials made available to public libraries
- * Faculty resources to support candidates available at no cost to IHE's
- * Candidates will not pay a test fee after their third attempt at a given exam
- * Financial assistance options are to be transparently outlined on the testing website.

Changes to Skills Requirements Nationally

Program Configuration and Test Purpose

- Literacy Skills
 - Required of all candidates (alternative to “basic skills”)
 - Communication and Literacy Skills (MA)
 - Liberal Arts and Sciences Test (NY) – phased out
 - Academic Literacy Skills Test (NY) – new; CCSS-based
- Foundations of Reading/Reading Instruction Competency Assessment (MA, CA, CT, NC, NH, WI, etc.)
- Educating All Students (NY) – to assess knowledge of diverse learners
- New content-area tests with increased emphasis on pedagogical content knowledge

Most states that have tests explicitly based on state standards have used state standards at a secondary (college and career-ready) level for skills tests

State Customized Educator "Basic Skills" Test	State Standards Used in Test Development
Core Academic Skills Assessment (IN)	Indiana Academic Standards (CCSS)
Professional Readiness Examination (MI)	Michigan High School Content Expectations (includes use of CCSS for Writing)
Washington Educator Skills Test – Basic (WA)	Washington Essential Academic Learning Requirements
Pre-service Academic Performance Assessment (PA)	Pennsylvania Academic Standards (Secondary)

Demand for Enhanced Services Provided by Vendors

Candidate Support

- Increased detail in score reporting
- Full-length, interactive practice tests
- Expanded study guides
- Mobile apps for test preparation
- Candidate preparation workshops

Working Session

- * Introduction

[Dr. David Driscoll](#)

- * Former Massachusetts's Commissioner of Education
- * Past President of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)

Questions at Hand

- * What is the purpose/benefit of a “skills” exam?
- * What is it that we want all teachers to know and be able to do?
- * What is being expected & then measured by Minnesota’s skills exam requirement?
- * What is the appropriate tool to provide the measure we seek?
- * Do we have policy in place to require that teachers meet those expectations?
- * Do we have an obligation to students to expect teachers to meet these expectations?

Options for Moving Forward

- * Engage in a process to reset passing scores for the current exam
- * Engage in a process to establish a new exam based on college and career ready standards
- * Engage in a process to develop a new skills measurement of academic/professional literacy
- * Request the use of NES exams rather than a Minnesota specific exam
- * Allow for multiple exams to meet the skills requirement and adopt passing scores for those exams

Needed Actions

- * Request for any statutory changes?
- * Rule changes?
- * Requests of our testing vendor?
- * Information needed from other resources, states or governing bodies?
- * Necessary Board actions?